

Migratory Bird Hunting Digest 2015

Dove, Rail, Snipe, Teal, Woodcock



NOPPADOL PAOTHOONG

Serving nature and you

Mourning dove



Blue-winged teal

JIM RATHER

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What’s New for 2015?

- The cost of a Federal Duck Stamp has increased from \$15 to \$25. See Page 5.
- Changes have been made to where and how Federal Duck Stamps are sold. See Page 5.
- The free MO Hunting app now allows hunters to carry their hunting permits afield on an Apple or Android mobile device. See Page 6.

Permit and Stamp Requirements

To pursue, take, possess, and transport doves, rails, snipe, teal, and woodcock in Missouri, a hunter must possess and carry the following, unless exempt:

1) **Missouri permit¹ to hunt small game is required of:**

- Missouri residents age 16 through 64
- Nonresidents age 16 and older

An annual permit is available to residents for \$10 and nonresidents for \$80 from any permit vendor. A daily permit is also available to nonresidents from any permit vendor for \$11 per day.

Exemption: Missouri resident landowners hunting on their own land do not need a Missouri small game hunting permit, but the Migratory Bird Hunting Permit is required.

2) **Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit¹ is required of:**

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and over

This permit is available for \$6 from any permit vendor. Purchase of this permit satisfies requirements for Migratory Game Bird Harvest Registration.

3) **Federal Duck Stamp is required of:**

- Every teal hunter age 16 and over (Dove, rail, snipe, and woodcock hunters do not need this stamp.)

Duck stamps are available online and at some U.S. Post Offices and permit vendors. See Page 5 for important information about duck stamps.

Permit Requirements for Hunters Younger Than 16

Resident and nonresident hunters age 15 and younger do not need to purchase permits to hunt doves, rails, snipe, teal, and woodcock in Missouri. However, they must be in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult hunter or have in their possession a valid hunter-education card while hunting.

¹All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1967, must complete an approved hunter-education course and display their card before purchasing firearms hunting permits.



Who may purchase resident permits?

- Any person who does not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit. Owning real estate or attending a Missouri school does not in itself make you a legal resident.
- Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces. (Immediate family members who reside with them also may purchase resident permits.)
- All members of the U.S. armed forces stationed and residing in Missouri on permanent change-of-station status and immediate family members residing with them.
- Any honorably discharged military veteran having a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater, or who was a prisoner of war during military service; must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs while hunting or purchasing permits.
- Any member of the U.S. military currently assigned as a patient to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit, or a military medical center; must carry orders showing assignment to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit, or admissions verification to a military medical center while hunting or purchasing permits.
- Nonresidents who are registered students attending a public or private secondary, postsecondary, or vocational school in Missouri and who live in Missouri while attending school; must carry evidence of a Missouri residence and student status while hunting. **Note:** Nonresident students who qualify for resident permits must purchase them at Conservation Department offices.
- Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card and who do not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before purchasing a permit.

Where to Purchase Permits

Purchase Missouri small game hunting permits and the Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit:

- Over the counter from any permit vendor. No surcharges will be assessed.
- Online anytime using the e-Permits System at **mdc.mo.gov/epermits**. Use your credit card and pay a \$1 surcharge. Print your permit at home and have it in hand immediately.
- **New!** From your smartphone using the free MO Hunting app. Use your credit card and pay a \$1 surcharge. Your valid permit will appear on the app immediately after purchase.
- By telephone at 800-392-4115. Use your credit card and pay a \$2 surcharge. Allow 10 days for delivery.

Federal Duck Stamp Information

New! The cost of a Federal Duck Stamp has gone from \$15 to \$25, the first price increase in more than 20 years. Many hunting, conservation, and wildlife-watching groups have been asking for a higher priced duck stamp for more than a decade. This is because 98 cents of every dollar generated by duck stamp sales goes directly to purchasing or leasing wetland habitat. Since 1934, duck stamp funds have been used to acquire more than six million acres of wetland habitat, providing homes for countless wildlife species and places for hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy. The \$10 increase will help protect an estimated 17,000 additional acres of habitat every year.

Several changes were implemented last year to where and how Federal Duck Stamps are sold. Plan ahead to avoid being caught by surprise.

- Duck stamps are no longer sold at waterfowl hunting areas, except for Columbia Bottom.
- Many permit vendors, such as hunting equipment retailers, no longer sell paper duck stamps. All vendors offer e-Stamps (see below).
- You may now buy duck stamps online at **www.mo.wildlifelicenses.com** or through the MO Hunting app (see Page 6). An electronic duck stamp, or e-Stamp, will be issued to you, and a paper duck stamp will be mailed to you. The e-Stamp may be used immediately and is valid for 45 days. After 45 days, you must carry the paper duck stamp that is mailed to you. E-Stamps may be purchased from your home computer for \$28.50, which includes a \$3.50 handling fee. A \$1 Internet convenience fee will also be added to your total online order. E-Stamps also may be purchased from retail permit vendors where the \$1 Internet convenience fee will not apply.
- Traditional (paper) duck stamps may be purchased for \$25 at some U.S. Post Offices and Conservation Department offices. Please call the office before you visit to ask if duck stamps are available.

Apprentice Hunter Authorization

Hunters age 16 and older who are not hunter-education certified may hunt with firearms, as long as they:

- Purchase an Apprentice Hunter Authorization;
- Purchase a hunting permit for the season they want to hunt; and
- Hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult age 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education certificate card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967.

Note: The Apprentice Hunter Authorization by itself does not allow you to hunt. It only allows those who have not completed a hunter-education course to purchase firearms permits throughout the permit year. The Apprentice Hunter Authorization can be purchased for no more than two years.

MDC's MO Hunting App Makes Permits Easy

You now have a quick, easy, and convenient new option for carrying your permits afield.

The Conservation Department's popular MO Hunting app is now even better. The free app, which is available for Apple and Android mobile devices, was updated in July. Combined with its previous functionality, the updated app will allow you to:

- Purchase permits and duck stamps through the app.
- See all the hunting, fishing, and trapping permits you have purchased — even if they were purchased from a traditional vendor, online, or by telephone.
- Carry valid, electronic permits afield. **Note:** The MO Hunting app will display your purchase of a federal duck stamp, but you must carry a paper duck stamp afield after your 45-day temporary authorization has expired. See Page 5.

To log into MO Hunting, you'll need your Conservation Number. This nine-digit number can be found on the back of your Heritage Card next to the bar code or on any current or previous permit. For help locating your Conservation Number, call 573-751-4115 during regular business hours and ask for the Permits Office, or go to **mdc.mo.gov/node/5127**.

MO Hunting is available in the Google Play and iTunes stores. You can also get MO Hunting and learn more about the app at **mdc.mo.gov/mobile/mobile-apps**.



Teal Status

Blue-winged teal are second only to mallards as the most numerous duck in North America. Since 1955, their breeding population has ranged from 2.7 to 9.2 million birds with the most recent 10-year average (2006–2015) weighing in at 7.6 million. Teal populations fluctuate with changing wetland conditions. Numbers decline during dry years and increase during wet years. Improved wetland conditions in the north-central United States have resulted in blue-winged teal estimates exceeding 8 million during four of the last five years.

Blue-winged teal are among the earliest ducks to migrate south during fall and the latest to head north during spring. The first teal typically arrive in Missouri during August, and their numbers usually peak around mid-September. Most are far south of the state by the time the regular duck season opens. Teal stay in Missouri a relatively short time, so the best hunting usually occurs when cold fronts bring winds favorable for migration. Teal may stay a few days in shallow wetlands with flooded vegetation, where they primarily eat seeds of wetland plants and aquatic invertebrates such as insects and snails before continuing on with their journey south.

Blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, and cinnamon teal are legal during the September teal season. Green-winged teal may make up nearly 25 percent of the teal harvest during some years, and a higher proportion of green-winged teal are harvested during the latter part of teal season. Cinnamon teal, a western species, are rare in Missouri.

Migratory Bird Seasons Will Be Announced Earlier Next Year

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is combining the processes of setting regulations for early migratory birds (teal, doves, rail, snipe, and woodcock) and waterfowl (ducks and geese) into a single procedure. This will result in migratory bird regulations, including those for waterfowl, being announced further in advance than in the past.

The first season under the new process will be 2016–2017. Next year, look for season information about migratory birds — including teal, dove, snipe, rail, ducks, and geese — to be announced at one time in the spring or early summer.

Potential to Change Regular Duck Seasons

The Conservation Department considers changes to zone boundaries and season dates associated with the regular duck season every five years. The next opportunity to consider changes in zones or the use of split seasons will be in 2016, and any changes will go into effect for the 2017–2018

season. Hunter preferences are an important component of this process, and the Department seeks hunter opinions through surveys, workshops, and direct communications. The 2015 Duck Hunter Opinion Survey was sent to a random sample of 20,000 migratory bird hunters after the 2014–2015 waterfowl season. Results from this survey will be compiled along with migration, harvest, and weather data to be discussed with Missouri duck hunters in workshops after the 2015–2016 season. All duck hunters are encouraged to participate in these workshops, which will be held around the state. Workshop locations and dates will be posted later this year on the Department's website and in the *2015 Waterfowl Hunting Digest*.

Avian Flu: Take Simple Safety Steps When Handling Wild Birds

Since December 2014, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5 viruses have affected more than 48 million birds in the United States, with most cases occurring in domestic poultry. In Missouri, this disease has been found in both domestic poultry operations and wild birds.

The Missouri Department of Conservation is working with federal and state agencies to monitor wild birds — such as waterfowl, birds of prey, and wild turkeys — for HPAI viruses. These efforts will include sampling hunter-harvested waterfowl during the upcoming hunting seasons.

Although HPAI viruses have not been associated with human illnesses, hunters and others who handle live or dead birds are advised to take the following precautions to prevent possible transmission of the disease:

- Avoid close contact with sick birds. Report birds that are sick or found dead to your local conservation agent or Conservation Department office.
- Work in a well-ventilated area or upwind of harvested game birds to minimize exposure to airborne particles from dust, feathers, or dander.
- Wear rubber gloves when handling birds.
- Wash hands with soap and water or alcohol-based disinfectant and disinfect tools and equipment after handling birds.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling birds.
- Cook game birds to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you develop fever or other flu-like symptoms and let them know that you have had recent contact with wild birds.

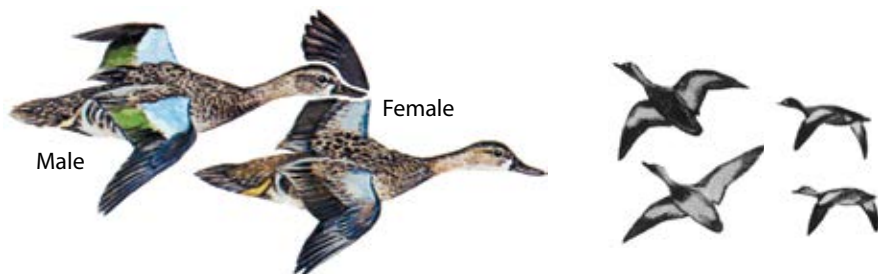
For more information, contact the Conservation Department's Wildlife Health Program at 573-815-7900 or visit the following websites:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: **www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth**
- U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center: **www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/avian_influenza/**
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: **www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/**

LEGAL during teal season

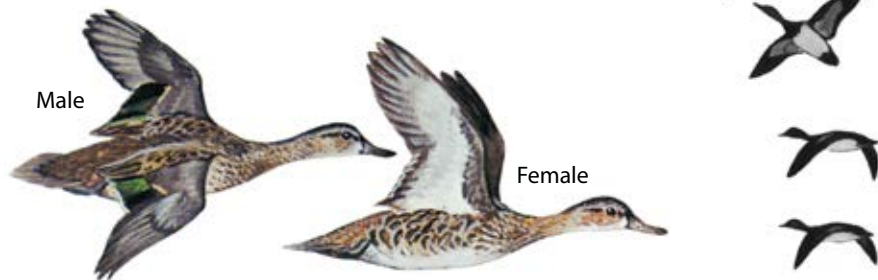
Blue-winged teal

Blue-winged teal are Missouri's most common teal species. Their small size, rapid flight, and blue wing patches help with identification. **Be careful. Shovelers and wood ducks also have blue wing patches.**



Green-winged teal

Green-winged teal are North America's smallest duck. Their size, rapid flight, and iridescent-green wing patches help to identify these ducks.



Cinnamon teal

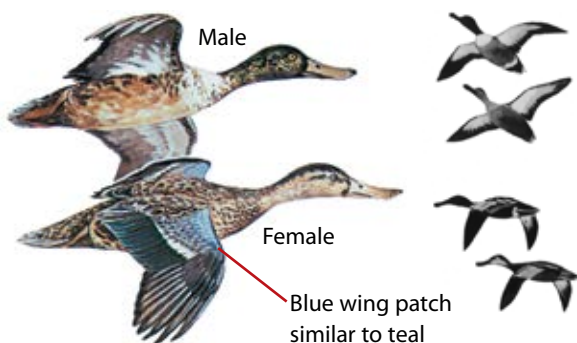
Cinnamon teal are extremely rare in Missouri. In the fall, they look similar to blue-winged teal.



ILLEGAL during teal season

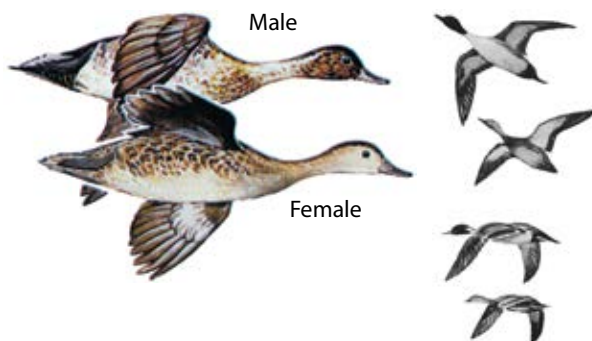
Northern shoveler

Be careful! Shovelers sport blue wing patches and often are mixed in with flocks of blue-winged teal. The spoon-shaped bill, slower wingbeat, and slightly larger body help separate this duck from teal.



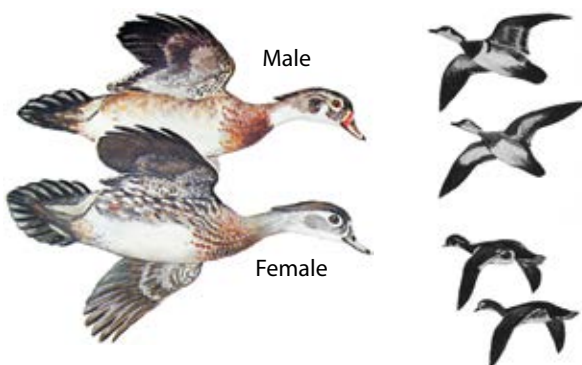
Northern pintail

Pintails can turn up in Missouri during teal season. They lack blue wing patches. Long, graceful bodies and pointed tails help to identify these early migrants.



Wood duck

Be careful! Like blue-winged teal, wood ducks have a blue wing patch. The square tail, blocky head, larger size, and slower wingbeat confirm this duck's identity.



Illustrations from *Ducks at a Distance: A Waterfowl Identification Guide*.
Used with permission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Three Species of Doves Provide Hunting Opportunities Statewide

Mourning doves, Eurasian collared-doves, and white-winged doves are legal to hunt. Allowing hunting for these three species maintains the integrity of mourning dove populations and provides more hunting opportunities.

Mourning doves are found in every county in Missouri, with greatest densities occurring in southeastern counties. The other two dove species have expanded their ranges into Missouri. White-winged doves, native to the southern United States, are found statewide. Eurasian collared-doves have been documented statewide, though their greatest concentrations are in the southeast. Predictions about dove distributions and numbers are difficult to make prior to the hunting season because dove migration depends upon the weather and food availability.

Doves benefit from cultivated areas and are especially abundant in crop fields and weedy areas. Preferred foods include corn, sunflower seeds, and small grains. Doves also eat seeds from pigweed, crotons, panic grasses, foxtails, and ragweed, but sunflowers seem to be the most dependable lure crop.

Dove hunting regulations are based upon information from banding programs and roadside, harvest, and wing collection surveys. This information is used to select one of three available options set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 22 doves a day, 15 doves a day, or 8 doves a day. Each option allows for 70 days of hunting. For 2015, the combined daily bag limit is 15. The combined possession limit for doves is 45. All three dove species count toward daily and possession limits. See the back cover for more information.

Dove Hunting on Public Land

Last year about 4,700 acres (713 fields) on 94 conservation areas were actively managed for doves. Dove hunting fields are planted in sunflowers, wheat, millet, buckwheat, corn, or a combination of the above. Each field provides a different type of hunting experience.

To locate dove fields, contact the regional office in the area you want to hunt. Maps of areas that have dove fields are available from the Department's website at **mdc.mo.gov/node/8905**.

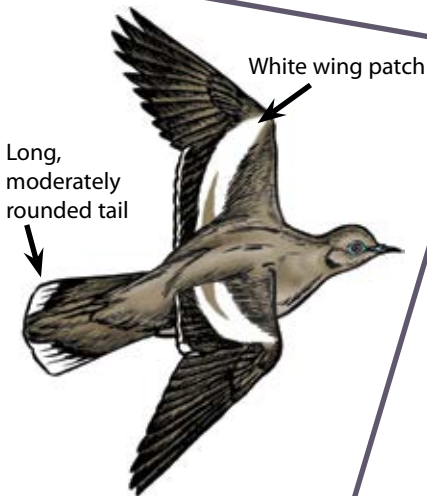
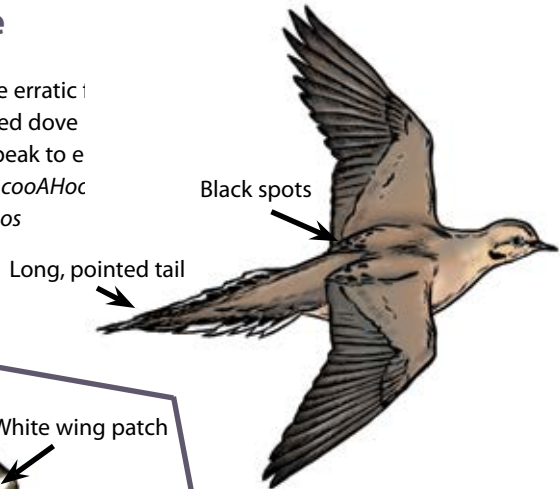
REMEMBER: Keep Missouri litter free.

Be sure to pack out empty shotgun shells and shell boxes when you leave for the day.

Dove Identification

Mourning dove

- ▶ Grayish-brown
- ▶ Faster wing beat, more erratic path than white-winged dove
- ▶ 12 inches from tip of beak to end of tail
- ▶ Call is a soft, inflected *cooAHcoo* followed by several *coos*

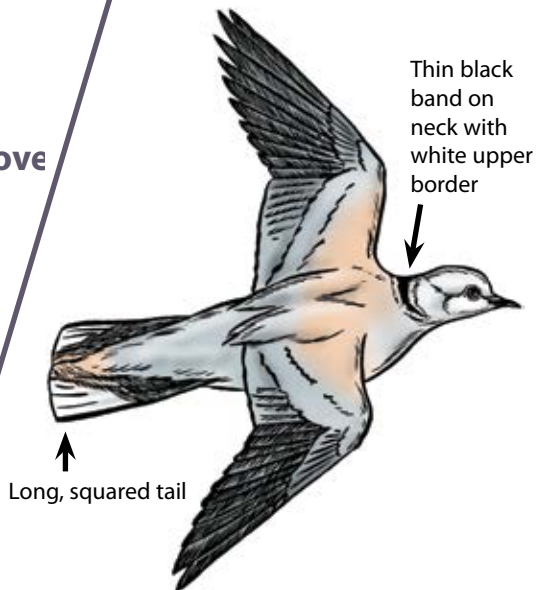


White-winged dove

- ▶ Grayish-brown
- ▶ Slightly larger than mourning dove
- ▶ Call is a soft *hoo-hoo hoo-hoo* with the final note descending

Eurasian collared-dove

- ▶ Gray
- ▶ 15 inches from tip of beak to end of tail
- ▶ Call is a three-part *coo* with similar tone to a domestic pigeon



Report Your Bands to reportband.gov

Bands recovered and reported by hunters provide important information about survival, migration, harvest rates, and distributions for a variety of migratory game birds.

To report band numbers from all types of birds (except pigeons), go online at **reportband.gov** or call 800-327-BAND (2263). You will receive a certificate of appreciation via email and information about the bird. The band is yours to keep.

Thanks for doing your part to help manage migratory game birds.

Hunters Provide Valuable Dove Data by Reporting Bands and Collecting Wings

Mourning doves are one of the most widely distributed and abundant birds in North America. They also are a popular game bird that is hunted in 39 of the lower 48 states. Up-to-date survival and harvest rate information is critical for understanding the effects of annual hunting regulations on mourning dove populations, and banding is an important tool for obtaining this information.

Missouri, in cooperation with other dove hunting states, is participating in a nationwide mourning dove banding program. Information from this program will be used to determine mourning dove harvest rates, estimate annual survival, and provide information regarding the geographical distribution of harvest.

From 2003 to 2012, more than 24,000 mourning doves were banded in Missouri, and more than 5,800 banded doves were reported by hunters. Captured doves are fitted with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) band inscribed with an identification number, Web address, and toll-free telephone number for band reporting.

Hunters should examine their mourning doves for leg bands. By reporting banded doves, you help manage this important migratory bird resource. If you harvest a banded dove, follow the instructions at the top of this page.

Missouri also is cooperating with the USFWS in collecting mourning dove wings from hunters. Randomly selected hunters will be asked to save one wing from each dove during the first week of the season and mail the wings (postage free) to the USFWS. Hunters using high-use public areas may be asked to provide dove wings as part of the monitoring effort. Data from the wings, in combination with information from banded birds, will be used to help establish hunting regulations.



Falconry Season for Migratory Game Birds

- Doves may be taken by falconry Sept. 1–Dec. 16, 2015, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Ducks, mergansers, and coots may be taken by falconry Sept. 12–27, 2015, from sunrise to sunset. The season dates for the remainder of the falconry duck, merganser, and coot season will be announced following the August Conservation Commission meeting.

The daily bag limit shall not exceed three birds (doves, ducks, mergansers, and/or coots) singly or in the aggregate. The possession limit shall not exceed nine birds singly or in the aggregate.

Additional falconry regulations, including permit requirements, can be found in chapters 7 and 9 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, which is available online at sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.

Note: According to rule 3 CSR 10-5.216 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, if you have been convicted of multiple or major violations of the *Code* in the past five years, the Conservation Commission may consider suspending or revoking your hunting, trapping, and/or fishing privileges regardless of any previous court action. The point system the Commission uses to assess *Code* violations is explained at mdc.mo.gov/node/16861.

LEGAL during migratory bird season

The species on this page are legal to hunt during migratory bird seasons. See the back cover for season dates and limits.

American woodcock

Buff-colored
body and wings

Long pink bill

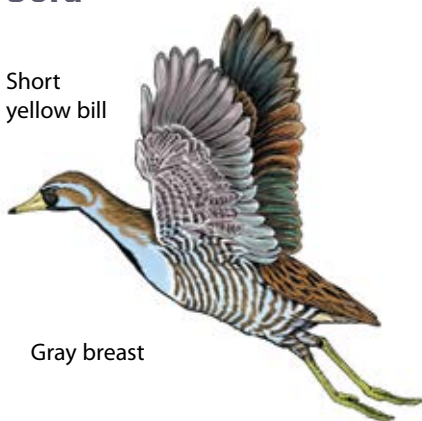


Plump body

When flushed, wings make a
whirring sound.

Sora

Short
yellow bill

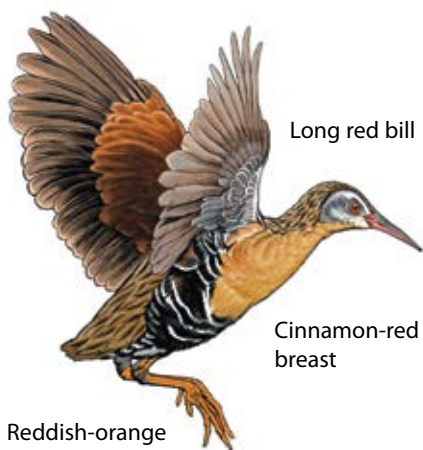


Gray breast

Yellow legs
dangle in flight.

Virginia rail

Long red bill



Cinnamon-red
breast

Reddish-orange
legs dangle
in flight.

Wilson's (common) snipe

Long gray bill



White belly

Short,
dark wings

Plump body

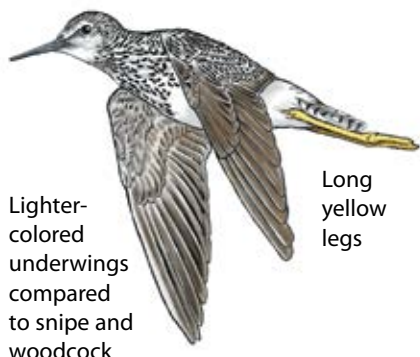
When flushed, often flies in a zigzag
pattern and calls a harsh *scaip, scaip*.

ILLEGAL during migratory bird seasons

The following shorebirds look similar to snipe and woodcock but are illegal to hunt during the migratory bird seasons. Be certain you have correctly identified your target before you pull the trigger.

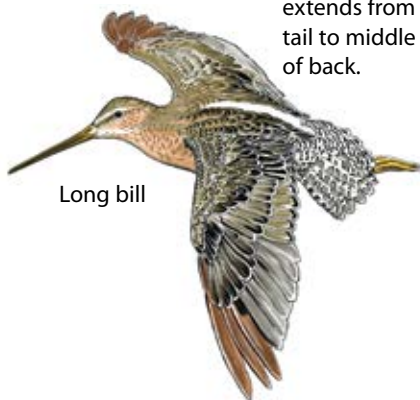
Lesser and greater yellowlegs

Gray bill, shorter than the bills of snipe or woodcock



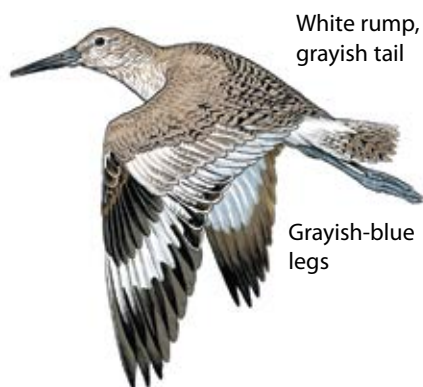
Long-billed and short-billed dowitchers

White wedge extends from tail to middle of back.



Willet

Gray bill is shorter and heavier compared to snipe and woodcock.



Larger body than snipe or woodcock

Stilt sandpiper

Slimmer than snipe and woodcock

Gray bill, pronounced droop at the tip, shorter than the bills of snipe or woodcock



Federal Regulations Summary

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the hunting of migratory game birds. **Note:** This is only a summary. For more information, visit ecfr.gov, where a complete version of Title 50, Part 20 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* can be found. When state law is different from federal law, hunters must follow the more restrictive law.

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sink box or any other type of low-floating device having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys. All live, tame, or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
- By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.
- By the aid of baiting (placing grain, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or attraction), or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the complete removal of bait. The following do not constitute baited areas or baiting: standing crops or flooded standing crops; standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; lands where seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting,

post-harvest manipulation, or normal soil stabilization practice; hunting from a blind or other place of concealment that is camouflaged with natural vegetation or vegetation from agricultural crops as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing or scattering of grain. Normal agricultural practices must be conducted in accordance with recommendations of the State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture — Cooperative Extension Service. A normal agricultural planting is undertaken for the purpose of producing a crop. Waterfowl may not be hunted over freshly planted wildlife food plots where grain or seed has been distributed, scattered, or exposed because these plots are not normal agricultural plantings or normal soil stabilization practices. For doves only, grain or feed distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop on the land where it was grown does not constitute baiting.

WANTON WASTE: No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in one's actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

OPENING DAY OF A SEASON: No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT: No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

TAGGING REQUIREMENTS: No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than one's personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

CUSTODY OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

TERMINATION OF POSSESSION: Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by the hunter to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by the hunter to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

GIFT OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS: No person may receive, possess, or give to another any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were taken.

TRANSPORTATION OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT: No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

MARKING PACKAGE OR CONTAINER: No person shall transport by the U.S. Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

NONTOXIC SHOT: Shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) possessed or used while hunting teal statewide, or doves, rails, snipe, and woodcock as designated by posting on public areas, must be approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As of July 2015, shot types approved as being nontoxic are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ■ Bismuth-tin | ■ Tungsten-iron-polymer |
| ■ Copper-clad iron | ■ Tungsten-matrix |
| ■ Iron (steel) | ■ Tungsten-polymer |
| ■ Iron-tungsten | ■ Tungsten-tin-bismuth |
| ■ Iron-tungsten-nickel | ■ Tungsten-tin-iron |
| ■ Tungsten-bronze (two types) | ■ Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel |
| ■ Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel | |

Some Conservation Areas Require Nontoxic Shot

A nontoxic-shot only regulation for all hunting with a shotgun is in effect at 21 conservation areas. These areas have larger wetlands where sizeable numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds concentrate in the fall and spring.

Ingesting lead shot can be fatal to all vertebrates including waterfowl, doves, and scavenging birds such as eagles. Evidence points to lead poisoning occurring in more than 134 species including amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

The nontoxic-shot rule applies to all hunting with a shotgun on these areas, including dove, turkey, quail, rabbit, and squirrel hunting. Since 1991, waterfowl hunters in Missouri have used nontoxic shot for all duck, goose, and coot hunting regardless of where they were hunting.

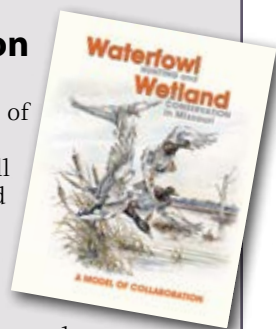
Many of the 21 conservation areas included in this nontoxic-shot requirement offer good dove hunting, which can be a significant source of lead shot poisoning in birds. Good quality nontoxic-shot shells for all gauges are available commercially at a reasonable cost.

Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited for hunting on the following Department of Conservation areas:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| ■ Black Island | ■ Fountain Grove | ■ Montrose |
| ■ Bob Brown | ■ Four Rivers | ■ Nodaway Valley |
| ■ Columbia Bottom | ■ Grand Pass | ■ Otter Slough |
| ■ Cooley Lake | ■ B.K. Leach Memorial | ■ Schell-Osage |
| ■ Coon Island | ■ Little Bean Marsh | ■ Settle's Ford |
| ■ Duck Creek | ■ Little River | ■ Ted Shanks |
| ■ Eagle Bluffs | ■ Marais Temps Clair | ■ Ten Mile Pond |

Book Supports Wetland Conservation

The success of Missouri's waterfowl and wetland conservation is not an accident. Skillful execution of well-designed plans, public and private partnerships, strong citizen support, and dedicated funding have all led to the quality wetland habitats and migratory bird populations we enjoy today. A new book, *Waterfowl Hunting and Wetland Conservation in Missouri — A Model of Collaboration*, chronicles this success. The authors, many of them former waterfowl biologists and wetland managers, have donated their services to produce the book. Sponsors — anchored by Bass Pro Shops, the Missouri Department of Conservation, Ducks Unlimited, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, and private citizens — have covered production costs. All proceeds from sales will be dedicated to wetland and waterfowl conservation. The book is available at mdcnatureshop.com or toll free at 877-521-8632. For additional details, visit mochf.org.





Director,
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 Robert L. Ziehmer

The Conservation Commission

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 James T. Blair, IV
 Marilynn J. Bradford
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**Missouri Department of
 Conservation**
 PO Box 180
 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
 573-751-4115
 mdc.mo.gov

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

Contact Information



Central Region

3500 East Gans Road
 Columbia, MO 65201
 573-815-7900

Kansas City Region

12405 SE Ranson Road
 Lee's Summit, MO 64082
 816-622-0900

Northeast Region

3500 S. Baltimore
 Kirksville, MO 63501
 660-785-2420

Northwest Region

701 James McCarthy Drive
 St. Joseph, MO 64507
 816-271-3100

Ozark Region

551 Joe Jones Blvd.
 West Plains, MO 65775
 417-256-7161

Southeast Region

2302 County Park Drive
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
 573-290-5730

Southwest Region

2630 N. Mayfair
 Springfield, MO 65803
 417-895-6880

St. Louis Region

2360 Highway D
 St. Charles, MO 63304
 636-441-4554

Sunrise and Sunset at Jefferson City, Mo.

Central Standard Time

DAY	SEPT. 2015		OCT. 2015		NOV. 2015		DEC. 2015	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	6:38	7:39	7:04	6:52	6:35	5:09	7:07	4:48
2	6:39	7:38	7:05	6:50	6:36	5:08	7:08	4:48
3	6:40	7:36	7:06	6:49	6:37	5:07	7:09	4:48
4	6:40	7:34	7:07	6:47	6:38	5:06	7:10	4:48
5	6:41	7:33	7:08	6:46	6:39	5:05	7:11	4:47
6	6:42	7:31	7:09	6:44	6:41	5:04	7:12	4:47
7	6:43	7:30	7:10	6:43	6:42	5:03	7:13	4:47
8	6:44	7:28	7:11	6:41	6:43	5:02	7:14	4:47
9	6:45	7:27	7:12	6:40	6:44	5:01	7:14	4:48
10	6:46	7:25	7:13	6:38	6:45	5:00	7:15	4:48
11	6:47	7:24	7:14	6:37	6:46	4:59	7:16	4:48
12	6:47	7:22	7:15	6:35	6:47	4:58	7:17	4:48
13	6:48	7:20	7:16	6:34	6:48	4:57	7:18	4:48
14	6:49	7:19	7:17	6:32	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48
15	6:50	7:17	7:18	6:31	6:50	4:56	7:19	4:49
16	6:51	7:16	7:19	6:29	6:52	4:55	7:20	4:49
17	6:52	7:14	7:20	6:28	6:53	4:54		
18	6:53	7:12	7:21	6:27	6:54	4:54		
19	6:54	7:11	7:22	6:25	6:55	4:53		
20	6:54	7:09	7:23	6:24	6:56	4:52		
21	6:55	7:08	7:24	6:23	6:57	4:52		
22	6:56	7:06	7:25	6:21	6:58	4:51		
23	6:57	7:04	7:26	6:20	6:59	4:51		
24	6:58	7:03	7:27	6:19	7:00	4:50		
25	6:59	7:01	7:28	6:17	7:01	4:50		
26	7:00	7:00	7:29	6:16	7:02	4:50		
27	7:01	6:58	7:30	6:15	7:03	4:49		
28	7:02	6:57	7:31	6:14	7:04	4:49		
29	7:03	6:55	7:32	6:12	7:05	4:49		
30	7:03	6:53	7:33	6:11	7:06	4:48		
31			7:34	6:10				

This table is for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. **Sunrise and sunset from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 have been converted to daylight saving time.** To calculate the sunrise and sunset times anywhere in the United States, visit the U.S. Naval Observatory website: **www.usno.navy.mil/USNO/astronomical-applications**.

2015 Hunting Seasons

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	SHOOTING HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Mourning, Eurasian Collared, and White-Winged Doves	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to Sunset‡	15*	45*
Wilson's (Common) Snipe	Sept. 1–Dec. 16		8	24
Sora and Virginia Rail	Sept. 1–Nov. 9		25*	75*
American Woodcock	Oct. 15–Nov. 28		3	9
Blue-Winged, Green-Winged, and Cinnamon Teal	Sept. 12–27	Sunrise to Sunset‡	6*	18*

*Combined total of all species.

‡See Page 23 for sunrise/sunset table.

Harvest Survey Needs Your Response

When you purchase your Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, the vendor asks you a series of questions about your migratory bird hunting activities of the previous year. The answers you provide place you in a category with other migratory bird hunters by type and amount of hunting activity. This allows the Conservation Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through the cooperative effort known as the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program, to use harvest surveys to sample hunters from each category. This survey information is extremely important and is considered when establishing migratory bird hunting seasons each year. Your cooperation in supplying this information is vital. If you receive a survey, please complete and return it, even if you did not hunt or were unsuccessful while afield. All the information you provide is important. By completing the survey, you are doing your part to help manage migratory birds.